Outcome of Indo-Bangladesh Talks

973. DR. ARUN KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of India Bangladesh official level talks held recently, indicating particulars of issues agreed upon;

(b) the details of agreement on illegal migration and extradition;

(c) whether Bangladesh agreed upon the issues of following India to use the Chittagong Port and water transit; and

(d) if so, particulars thereof; and if not, progress made on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Foreign Secretary level talks were held between India and Bangladesh on 28-29 June 1998 in Dhaka. The talks covered bilateral relations as well as regional and international matters. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the continued close and friendly relations between the two countries. There was an emphasis on the need to accelerate economic cooperation in a constructive and mutually beneficial manner. Cooperation in other areas of bilateral interaction, including security matters, was also discussed. Both sides reiterated their commitment to developing SAARC as an effective forum for promoting greater regional cooperation.

Home Secretary visited Dhaka for bilateral talks on 20-22 November 1998 and discussed matters related with security, illegal immigration, border management and visa regime. Both sides agreed to share actionable intelligence in order not to allow undesirable elements to use their respective territories for action prejudicial to the security interests of the other. Bangladesh assured that measures will be taken to strengthen security at the border to prevent illegal border crossing.

India-Bangladesh Trade Review talks were held in Dhaka on 8-9 December 1998. Commerce Secretary led the Indian delegation. The talks were extremely positive and both sides discussed a number of issues including cooperation in infrastructure development including rail, road and inland water transport. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the progress of the work on restoration of Jessore-Benapole rail link which is expected to be operational by June 1999. Both tide» alto agreed on the necessity for linking Akhaura and Agartala by rail.

Indo-British Talk

974. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of External Affairs held wide ranging talks with leaders of the British government recently at London; and

(b) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Minister of External Affairs paid an official visit to the U.K. from 2—7 February 1999. The visit was part of a mutually agreed effort for further development of Indo-U.K. relations and, in particular, to give them the depth and dimension they deserved. For this purpose the Minister held wide ranging talks with the U.K. political leadership. The subjects discussed included, intcr-alia, bilateral cooperation, regional developments, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Several exchanges in diverse fields are now envisaged as a follow up.

Infiltration from Bangladesh

975. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) wehther Government are aware that more than 20,000 persons from bangladesh have infiltrated in West Bengal who are putting the West Bengal under strain and also causing both social and economic problem in that State: and

(b) if so, whether the matter was taken up with Government of Bangladesh and if so, with what result and by when these infiltrators would be deported to Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the presence of Bangladeshi nationals in West Bengal and in other parts of India. Government has often conveyed concern about the seriousness and magnitude of the, problem of infiltration and illegal migration to the Government of Bangladesh. Both sides have agreed to adhere to specific procedures for repatriation of illegal immigrants. The Government of Bangladesh has conveyed the assurance that measures will be taken to strengthen security at the border to prevent illegal border crossing.

Annual outlay for Indian embassies

976. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) An estimated annual outlay approved for administration and official expenditure of Indian embassies during 1997-98 country-wise;

(b) how much the outlay was utilized it those embassies with details thereof;

(c) what was the approved outlay for above embassies for 1998-99; and

(d) expenditure incurred annually on each embassy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) to (d) A statement containing Budget Allocation for 1997-98, actual expenditure booked during 1997-98 and Budget Allocation for 1998-99 in respect of Indian Missions/Posts abroad is enclosed.

Statement

Budget Allocation 1997-98 Actual Booked Expenditure 1997-98 and Budget Allocation 1998-99-Mission-Wise

(Rs. 000)

s. No.	Missions	Total Allocation during 1997-98	Total Expenditure booked during 1997-98	Total Allocation during 1998-99
1.	E.I. Abidjan	21565	16777	21553
2.	E.I. Abu Dhabi	57055	49078	62060
3.	E.I. Accra	29533	21077	26527
4.	E.I. Addis Ababa.	16154	16723	19147
5.	E.I. Almaty	35274	31555	51513
6.	E.I. Algiers	16359	20751	21122
7.	E.I. Amman	9492	10119	11218
8.	E.I. Ankara	31208	31318	37385
9.	E.I. Antananarivo	16144	15947	19271
10.	E.I. Ashkabad	16947	14584	28394